



# Paddle for the Border

## Chesapeake, Virginia

### April 30, 2011

"The event takes place on the Dismal Swamp Canal. Paddlers launch their canoes and kayaks from the Dismal Swamp State Park and Dismal Swamp Welcome Center in South Milles, North Carolina, and end with a picnic on the grounds of the Dismal Swamp Canal Trail at the Great Dismal Swamp Boat Ramp at Ballahack Road in Chesapeake, Virginia.

It is a unique event that takes place in two states – Virginia and North Carolina – and is sponsored by four organizations in two states. Sponsors include City of Chesapeake Parks and Recreation Department (VA), Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge (VA), Dismal Swamp State Park (NC), and Dismal Swamp Canal Welcome Center (NC). Participating paddlers travel from localities throughout Virginia and North Carolina and several other states. This year's event will be the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Paddle for the Border. Paddlers are encouraged to register early, because the event fills quickly."

**Green Statement:** "Paddle for the Border is a fun outdoor event on the Dismal Swamp Canal. Paddlers are naturally interested in the environment and want to 'be green.' Paddling and the environment are a natural partnership. Most of our brochures are distributed via email. The brochure, *Enjoy and Learn While You Paddle for the Border*, includes historical, geographical, and natural information about the Dismal Swamp Canal. Included in this brochure are web sites that include information about 'Species List and Refuge Bird List' and 'Natural Resource History.' "



### CORE ACTIVITIES for Green Events

☒ **Recycling.** Events must provide recycling for its participants. Recycling should be highly visible and made available to the public with clear signage. The organizers of this event pledge that they provide recycling for:

- Aluminum cans, plastic bottles

☒ **Minimize the use of disposable food service products.** The facility is required to minimize the use of disposable food service products and maximize the use of food service products that are recyclable or compostable in the food service area. When disposable food service items are used, the facility is encouraged to use products that are made from bio-based or renewable resources, and to provide for the collection / recycling / composting of food service items disposed of on the premises. This facility pledges that they:

- Use disposable foodservice items that are made from bio-based, renewable materials (corn, bamboo, potato starch, sugarcane, etc.)
- Use disposable foodservice items that are made with recycled content
- Use disposable foodservice items that are recyclable (in your area!)

☑ **Printed Materials.** Recycled-content, soy-based inks, and 2-sided copies – and quantities should be minimized whenever possible! The organizers of this event pledge that they:

- Use electronic registration, correspondence and forms
- Print brochures and other printed items on recycled content paper with soy-based inks, and print all documents double-sided
- Purchase/use paper products with 30% or higher recycled-content

☑ **Waste Reduction.** Event planners should make a general commitment to reduce the amount of waste generated by their event. The organizers of this event pledge that they:

- Chose a location/venue that shares a similar commitment to reducing its environmental impacts and include green specifics in contracting
- Track overall solid waste costs

*Food service*

- Use non-bleached napkins and coffee filters
- Provide condiments, cream and sugar, etc., in bulk
- Avoid box lunches and serve trays/platters of food instead



☑ **Green Signage.** Event planners must commit to tell their participants about how green the event is. Event signage should include the Virginia Green logo and list all “green activities” practiced in the planning and operation of the event. The organizers of this event pledge that they:

- Have a link on its website to the Virginia Green Events webpage
- Have signs at the event registration which list all of its green activities
- Use the Virginia Green logo on signs and on recycling containers

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For more information on Paddle for the Border, see [www.cityofchesapeake.net](http://www.cityofchesapeake.net) or contact Gail Bradshaw at [SpecialPrograms@cityofchesapeake.net](mailto:SpecialPrograms@cityofchesapeake.net) or 757-382-6411.

**Virginia Green** is the Commonwealth of Virginia’s campaign to promote environmentally-friendly practices in all aspects of Virginia’s tourism industry. **Virginia Green Events** have been thoughtfully planned and designed to minimize their impacts on the environment. This event has met the established “core activities” for **Green Events** and has committed to communicate its activities to its guests.

For more information on **Virginia Green** program, see [www.deq.virginia.gov/p2/viriniagreen](http://www.deq.virginia.gov/p2/viriniagreen) or [www.viriniagreentravel.org](http://www.viriniagreentravel.org).



Virginia Green is supported through a partnership between the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, the Virginia Hospitality & Travel Association, and the Virginia Tourism Corporation.

